

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 134267
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GWSCOTT:PS
APPROVED BY P:PHABIB
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P 100033Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 134267

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, SO, US

SUBJECT CONTINUED CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SAUDIS ON
SOMALIA

REF: MOGADISCIO 826

1. PURSUANT TO OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE COORDINATIO;
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WITH THE SAUDIS ON SOMALI DEVELOPMENTS, YOU SHOULD INFORM
THE SAUDIS, THAT IN HIS MEETING WITH OUR
AMBASSADOR ON MAY 22 (REFTEL) PRESIDENT SIAD DID NOT
ACCEPT OUR OFFER TO APPOINT A DEFENSE ATTACHE, BUT INDICATED
AN ATTACHE MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE LATER. SIAD MENTIONED HIS
DESIRE TO INCREASE SOMALIA'S SOURCES OF ARMS AND SAID HE
WELCOMED ASSISTANCE FROM THE FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF THE U.S.,

BUT HE DID NOT ASK FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE, SAYING ONLY THAT HE KNEW THE QUESTION WAS DIFFICULT AND SUCH DISCUSSIONS MIGHT FOLLOW LATER.

2. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT WE ARE INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE SIAD'S CAUTION IN DISCUSSING THESE QUESTIONS WITH AMB. LOUGHRAN TO THE FEAR THAT HIS CONVERSATION WAS BEING MONITORED, BUT IT MAY ALSO REPRESENT A DESIRE BY SIAD TO KEEP HIS OPTIONS OPEN. SIAD REPEATED THAT SOMALIA WOULD TAKE NO ACTION AGAINST ONE OF THE SUPER POWERS AND WAS NOT A PUPPET OF THE RUSSIANS. HE INSISTED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO QUID PRO QUOS FOR ANY ASSISTANCE RECEIVED. NEVERTHELESS NORMAL SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITIES CONTINUE. THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF DEPLOYMENTS OF TWO IL-38 ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE AIRCRAFT HAS TAKEN PLACE. THESE AIRCRAFT HAVE IN THE PAST CONDUCTED SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS OF US NAVAL FORCES OPERATING IN THE AREA.

3. OUR PLANS FOR RENEWED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ARE GOING FORWARD. OUR AID SURVEY TEAM VISITED SOMALIA MAY 24-JUNE 2 AND WAS WELL RECEIVED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND A NUMBER OF ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WERE IDENTIFIED. THE TEAM HAS NOW RETURNED AND IS PREPARING RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WE INTEND TO IMPLEMENT AS QUICKLY AS CONDITIONS PERMIT. (IN CONTRAST TO COVERAGE OF EEC AND UK AID MISSIONS, THERE WAS NO PUBLICITY CONCERNING THE US TEAM. WE ATTRIBUTE THIS TO EXTREME SOMALI SENSITIVITY TO ANY PUBLIC INDICATION THAT THEY ARE SEEKING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH US.) VANCE

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Message Attributes

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